

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) A method for the inhibition or prevention of a bone mineral density reduction of a mammal, comprising the step of administering an effective amount of ~~the~~ an active ingredient ~~according to any one of claims 1 to 4~~ to a mammal, or allowing a mammal to take an effective amount of ~~the~~ an active ingredient ~~according to any one of claims 1 to 4~~ , wherein the active ingredient is isoxanthohumol.

28. (Currently Amended) A method for the prevention, treatment, or amelioration of osteoporosis, comprising the step of administering an effective amount of ~~the~~ an active ingredient ~~according to any one of claims 1 to 4~~ to a mammal, or allowing a mammal to take an effective amount of ~~the~~ an active ingredient ~~according to any one of claims 1 to 4~~ , wherein the active ingredient is isoxanthohumol.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

31. (New) The method according to claim 27 or 28, wherein the active ingredient is an isoxanthohumol-containing isomerized hop extract.

32. (New) The method according to claim 31, wherein said isomerized hop extract has been produced by isomerizing a xanthohumol-containing hop extract obtained by extraction with an ethanol solvent.

33. (New) The method according to claim 32, wherein said isomerization is carried out by heating the hop extract in alkaline water under reflux.

34. (New) The method according to claim 27 or 28, wherein the active ingredient is taken in the form of food and drink.

35. (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein the food and drink is a health food, a functional food, a food for specified health use, or a food for sick persons.
36. (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein the food and drink is a beverage.
37. (New) The method according to claim 36, wherein the beverage is a non-hop beverage.
38. (New) The method according to claim 37, wherein the beverage is a tea beverage.
39. (New) The method according to claim 37, wherein the beverage is a milk beverage.
40. (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein the beverage is yoghurt.
41. (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein the food and drink comprises isoxanthohumol in such an amount that the intake of isoxanthohumol per day per adult is 0.003 to 0.5 mg/kg-weight.
42. (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein the food and drink comprises isoxanthohumol in such an amount that the intake of isoxanthohumol per time is 0.2 to 30 mg.
43. (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein the food and drink is non-grain-hop fermentation-type food and drink.
44. (New) The method according to claim 27 or 28, wherein the effective amount is 0.01 to 100 mg/kg-body weight adult.
45. (New) The method according to claim 27 or 28, wherein said mammal is in need of an inhibition of bone mineral density reduction.